

Network security is getting complicated, but there are tools to help you, whatever the size of your organization. Julian Ashbourn assesses a selection.

These days, networks, applications and their security have become quite a complex affair. There are all sorts of angles: access control, device configuration and protection, vulnerability scanning and remediation, policy creation and enforcement, regulatory

compliance, intrusion detection, patch management and many other factors, all of which must be taken into consideration with respect to contemporary IT networks. And this trend is likely to continue.

In this group test, we have a mixed bag of interesting products, including tools to protect

wireless LANs, solutions to unify access across disparate operating systems, comprehensive network security models, and utilities to review access entitlement across the enterprise.

All of these test subjects had something interesting to offer in one way or another.

ID-Certify



Supplier M-Tech Information Technology
Price \$22.87 a user for 10,000 users
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We now find ourselves in a world of regulatory compliance. It wasn't always this way, but it is now a fact of life we cannot ignore. In a sense, it is good for us who administer and manage IT systems as it forces us to adopt responsible practices, especially around access control.

The snag is that some of our networks and applications have complex and dissimilar rules around the control of access, which make common approaches to the situation quite difficult, including audits.

This is where ID-Certify comes in. It works by prompting and enforcing regular reviews of access via an automated, easy-to-use, web-based workflow. It works on the premise that individual stake-

holders, such as managers, have a good understanding of their immediate area and are therefore able to review and sign off user entitlements for their subordinates.

If we consider the entire hierarchy of an organization, we can appreciate that this is scalable from the lowest levels right up to the top. We can, however, subdivide stakeholders into managers, who look after people, application owners, who look after access to individual applications, and group owners, who understand group membership and can manage it accordingly.

Much of this information will already exist, of course, via corporate directories, application logs and other repositories, but without a means of drawing together the overall management into a single coherent entity. ID-Certify provides that entity.

It effectively manages access review for all stakeholders via an intuitive workflow, escalating the situation should reviews not be completed on time. If reviews identify that access rights are no longer needed, then ID-Certify can automatically deactivate those accounts.

Furthermore, it provides a comprehensive audit trail of all such reviews and events, ensuring that your organization can demonstrate compliance where required. For some companies, this could be a godsend in terms of saved time alone. However, as previously indicated, it also serves to instill good and sustainable access control practice in general.

Deployment of the product will be straightforward in most cases, and the interfaces are slick and attractive. Its own authentication rules are flexible and it can help in setting password complexity and other functions as appropriate across the estate.

SC MAGAZINE RATING	
Features	★★★★☆
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★☆
Documentation	★★★★☆
Support	★★★★☆
Value for money	★★★★☆
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★
For Focused functionality, easy to deploy.	
Against Very large organizations may question the per-user cost.	
Verdict An extremely useful tool to ensure that your access rules are being maintained across the enterprise.	



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Julian Ashbourn



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